

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated and purified DNA encoding urocortin II protein that has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 or 11.

2.-3. Canceled

<sup>2</sup> ~~2~~ (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the DNA of claim 1 and regulatory elements necessary for expression of said DNA in a cell.

<sup>2</sup> ~~3~~ (Original) The vector of claim <sup>2</sup> ~~4~~, wherein said DNA encodes a urocortin II protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

6. (Amended) A host cell ~~transfected with~~ comprising the vector of claim 4, ~~said vector encodes urocortin II protein.~~

<sup>4</sup> ~~5~~ (Previously Presented) The host cell of claim <sup>4</sup> ~~6~~, wherein said cell is selected from group consisting of a bacterial cell, a mammalian cell, a plant cell and an insect cell.

<sup>5</sup> ~~6~~ (Original) The host cell of claim <sup>5</sup> ~~7~~, wherein said bacterial cell is *E. coli*.

9.-46. Canceled